

[27 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

transportation rates are decided subject to the rates quoted by tenderers/negotiated rates.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an agreement with Transporters for transportation of petrol and Diesel for various States in Western/Eastern Regions, effective from 01.09.1999 and 01.03.1999 respectively.

(c) and (d) The agreements have been implemented by BPCL's Western and Eastern Regions.

Complaints against gas agencies in Bihar

†646. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gas agencies alongwith their name and address in Bihar against whom complaints have been received during the last six months; and

(b) what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have received established complaints against the following agencies in Bihar during last six months:—

(i) M/s. Pushpanjali Gas Service, Muzaffarpur.

(ii) M/s. Avadhraj Gas Agency, Chitragupta Nagar, Patna.

(b) M/s. Pushpanjali Gas Service was suspended for a period of 15 days with effect from 5th November, 2000. M/s. Avadhraj Gas Agency was also counselled for appropriate service to customers as the complaint was related to non delivery of refills.

Diversion of kerosene for adulteration

647. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the quantum total of Kerosene sold in the country during the last two years including through the PDS;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large quantum of kerosene supplied through the PDS is illegally diverted to mix it with diesel, petrol and other things; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop this adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Kerosene sale in the country in the past two years was as under:

(Figures in TMT)

	PSU	PMS	Total
1998-99	10599	1644	12243
1999-00	10731	1167	11898

PSU sales include PDS Kerosene Sales

(b) Instance of Kerosene being used to adulterate MS & HSD have come to the notice. This is owing to the price differential between kerosene and Diesel & Petrol.

(c) Government have already made provisions in the various control orders issued for inspection, seizure and action against violators. The oil companies as per Government instructions carry out periodical inspections and surprise checks at the Retail Outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, the State Governments have also been empowered to take action and they have been suitably advised from time to time by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in this regard.

The checking of oil adulteration is a continuous activity of oil companies. To prevent, adulteration enroute from supply points to the retail outlets, the marketing companies have taken various steps

like improvement in seals, sealing under the direct supervision of an officer at the supply locations, introduction of pilfer proof locking device etc.

Complaints received against LPG distributors

648. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector Oil Companies received complaints against their LPG distributors for indulging in various malpractices;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and Oil Company-wise;

(c) what was the general nature of complaint against these distributors; and

(d) what action was taken against each such distributor of each oil company during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported the details of established complaints received against their LPG distributors during last three years as under:—

(Number of established complaints during the Year)

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
IOC	143	222	373
HPC	77	64	79
BPC	16	38	53
IBP	nil	nil	nil

(c) and (d) The general nature of complaints have been overcharging, giving out of turn unauthorised LPG connections, shortage of corporation's equipments, supply of underweight cylinders, pilfering product from cylinders, forced sale of hot plates, delay in refill supply etc. Regular/surprise inspections of LPG distributors are carried out by the field officers/vigilance officers of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and action against the distributorships on established complaints, is taken in